



children's home & aid

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**LEADERS DISCUSS BOLD IDEAS TO REDUCE CHILD NEGLECT BY  
WORKING TO ELIMINATE POVERTY IN ILLINOIS**  
*Children's Home & Aid event draws wide attendance, enthusiastic support*

**CHICAGO** (June 14, 2022)—Community leaders gathered to discuss ways to create opportunity by reinvesting in families through innovative economic solutions aimed at reducing poverty at a special event held by child and family service agency Children's Home & Aid.

The event, called “Breaking Barriers. Centering Families. Transforming Systems,” was attended by 200 people and featured conversations with leading thinkers Alex Kotlowitz, whose books showcase the impact of poverty and racism, and Michael Tubbs, the youngest mayor of a major city and a champion of universal basic income. Children's Home & Aid reaches 30,000 children statewide each year with child welfare, counseling and treatment, parenting supports, childcare and early education services.

“For 139 years, Children's Home & Aid has done whatever it takes to ensure children and families thrive,” said organization President and CEO Mike Shaver. “Now, more than ever, it is essential we ask ourselves the hard questions to confront – and then transform – systems creating unjust racial and social barriers limiting the ability for families and communities to truly flourish.”

Shaver said the event aimed to raise awareness about how families of color are disproportionately impacted by policies and systems, and spark changes to public policy to benefit children, families and communities. The event was also a fundraiser for Children's Home & Aid and brought in over \$300,000 in support.

“It's time that we find a new direction to support families and children most in need,” said Board Chair Alan Conkle, a partner at PwC. “We hope this event inspires others to work together to find innovative solutions to transform our systems and make our communities better for all of us.”

Children's Home & Aid invites supporters to take action by engaging in advocacy on these issues, attending events, understanding how you can support children and families in need by volunteering and donating. Learn more about ways to be involved at [childrenshomeandaid.org/involved](http://childrenshomeandaid.org/involved).

“Breaking Barriers. Centering Families. Transforming Systems” was generously supported by Allstate, BMO, Exelon and ITW, with additional support from Aon, Discover Financial Services, J.P.Morgan Chase and People's Gas.

**Children's Home & Aid** is a leading child and family service agency in Illinois. Each year, the agency strengthens, educates, and counsels nearly 30,000 children, youth, and families. Since 1883, Children's Home & Aid has been a compassionate advocate helping to shape public policy in child welfare, early childhood, children's mental health and juvenile justice. Children's Home & Aid is recognized for establishing best practices and achieving outstanding results through its programs and services that focus on child abuse prevention, healthy child and youth development, and strengthening families. The agency's mission is to advance the well-being of children by investing in families to disrupt the systemic and multi-generational cycle of racial, social, and economic inequality. Its vision is an equitable world where all children and families thrive in strong communities. Learn more at [childrenshomeandaid.org](http://childrenshomeandaid.org).

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